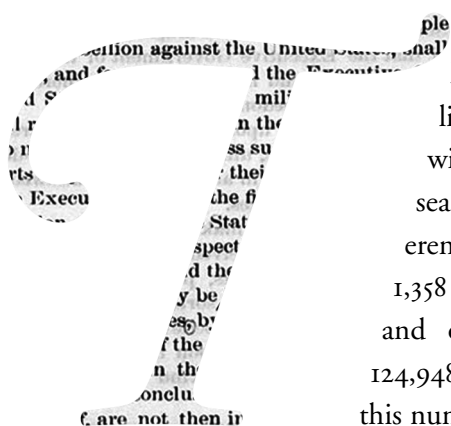


# Law Library of Congress

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The Law Library of Congress—the world’s largest law library—provided Congress and other constituents with foreign, international, and comparative legal research and reference, as well as with American law reference. During fiscal 1999, the Law Library provided 1,358 written studies and memoranda to congressional and other government requesters and responded to 124,948 reference inquiries from all of its constituencies. Of this number, more than 86,000 were assisted in person, and nearly 39,000 were assisted by telephone, fax, written correspondence, and electronic mail.

## CONGRESSIONAL SERVICE

A total of 975 special studies and memoranda were produced by the Law Library’s Directorate of Legal Research in response to congressional inquiries. Tailored to requesters’ needs, Law Library responses included single jurisdictional studies as well as comparative, multinational analyses on a broad range of subjects. The *World Law Bulletin*, a monthly publication distributed in paper and electronic format, kept members of Congress and their staffs up-to-date about legislative developments around the globe.

The following are examples of the year’s most important research completed for Congress.

*Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure.* Several members requested information on sanctions against flag desecration in several foreign countries. Criminal law provisions used against sex offenders in France were analyzed for the *World Law Bulletin*. Reports were produced on Scotland's pretrial procedures; the minimum legal age for prosecution in Austria, Germany, and Switzerland; parliamentary immunity in Germany; and French law on the disclosure of classified information. "Israel: The Sheinbein Affair" was the subject of an article featured in the *World Law Bulletin*.

*Commercial Law.* The Law Library researched European legislation regarding class action lawsuits by shareholders against corporate directors. The bidding process in the Jinro-Coors sale and dual-use goods in China were the subjects of two other congressional requests.

*Constitutional Law.* Voting rights of U.S. citizens in Israeli national elections were analyzed for Congress. Staff researchers also answered a congressional request for a multinational study on juries in civil trials. Mandatory voting in Austria was the subject of another congressional inquiry, and constitutional law in Kenya was featured in a *World Law Bulletin* article.

*Environmental Law.* The *World Law Bulletin* featured articles on the German "eco tax" and Hungary's amended environmental laws.

*Health Care/Medical Technologies.* A report for Congress was produced on psychiatric treatment regulation in various Eastern European and Central Asian nations, and human cloning was again the subject of a multinational report.

*Holocaust.* The Law Library engaged in a major joint research project with the Congressional Research Service involving twenty-five foreign jurisdictions on the restitution of Holocaust-era assets.

*Human Rights.* Laws and regulations affecting religious liberty in various countries were the focus of a congressional request, as were laws on the free movement of workers. "Gender Equality in France" was the title of an article produced for the *World Law Bulletin*.

*Immigration/Citizenship.* Law Library staff members provided expert witness testimony for a congressional committee hearing regarding immigration policies, especially quota systems in Canada and the United Kingdom. Congress

also received reports on dual nationality in several nations and on the nationality law of Vietnam.

*Impeachment.* Several Law Library reference librarians served on an Impeachment Task Force established by the Congressional Research Service. They assembled a large collection of impeachment materials that were secured and made noncirculating for reference use only. An extensive annotated bibliography was published as a special Law Library report for Congress. In addition, the project staff of the Reading Room and National Digital Law Library cooperatively prepared a special presentation used on the *Century of Lawmaking* Web site. The presentation featured the Senate's impeachment trial of President Andrew Johnson, background information on the trial, and an extensive bibliography of print and Internet-based impeachment materials. Staff members who are legal specialists covering Canada, France, Germany, India, and Mexico also produced analyses of impeachment legislation in those nations.

*International Law.* In response to a congressional inquiry, researchers prepared reports from the Greek and Turkish legal vantage points concerning the status of the Imia/Kardac Islet under international law. A report was provided on the Panama Canal treaties.

*Minors.* Congress commissioned multinational reports on setting a minimum age for alcohol consumption and drunk-driving testing, as well as on laws dealing with juvenile delinquents. Another study dealt with implementing the Hague Convention on Child Abduction.

*Taxation/Fiscal.* The Law Library provided Congress with a report on tax penalties in Hungary, and articles in the *World Law Bulletin* analyzed "Penalties and Interest for Late Income Tax Filings in Germany" and Ukrainian restrictions on the sale of securities. A report was prepared on the presidential budget allocation in Gabon. Research was also completed on the attachment of property belonging to a U.S. citizen in bankruptcy in Jordan.

*Other Congressional Services.* The Law Library conducted fifteen seminars, attended by 430 congressional staff members, on "Fundamentals of Legal Research" and "Legislative History and Statutory Research." Law Library staff members conducted forty-three briefings, which were attended by 244 congressional staff. Special tours for congressional constituents were conducted as requested.

During the year, members of the Public Services staff and of the Legal Research Directorate together answered 4,397 in-person congressional reference requests. Congressional reference inquiries included requests for previously prepared reports and for bibliographies, as well as other information about campaign financing under foreign law, dual nationality, adoption under the laws of various countries, Chinese adoption law vis-à-vis homosexual adopters, British reports on terrorism in Northern Ireland, family and medical leave legislation in foreign countries, gun control, legal status of women in Afghanistan, Mexican criminal law, and human rights in El Salvador. Among some of the far-ranging subjects about which the Congress requested information were South African laws on prescription drugs, the new Nigerian Constitution, absentee voting in Burma and Malaysia, the Turkish Code of Criminal Procedure, and banking law in South Korea.

#### NONCONGRESSIONAL CONSTITUENTS

During fiscal 1999, the Law Library continued to serve its noncongressional constituents, including the federal agencies, the judicial branch, and the public. Law Library attorneys and specialists wrote 383 reports in response to executive branch and judicial branch requests.

The Law Library continued its research work for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) of the Justice Department through an interagency agreement that reimburses the Library for this vital assistance. Some sixty requests were answered about laws of thirty-eight foreign nations and two U.S. jurisdictions. Questions dealt primarily with immigration, nationality law, and family law issues. Research for INS included work on the laws of nations such as Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gabon, Laos, Macao, Mongolia, Nepal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam, among others.

Research was commissioned by the Executive Office of the President, the National Archives, the Social Security Administration, and the Departments of State, Defense, Treasury, and Labor. The Supreme Court was provided with materials on the Russian Federation and with copies of numerous opinions involving the Warsaw Convention on Aviation.

Four additional public Internet workstations were added to the Law Library Reading Room by the end of the year. The reading room staff actively participated in Library-wide initiatives concerning public access to the Internet and about standards for uniform public workstation configurations. They served on various subcommittees and task forces that addressed complex technical and policy issues related to this new service.

Law Library staff members mounted a reading room exhibit titled *African Americans in the Courtroom*, and they designed a commemorative poster for African American History Month. The poster was made available for purchase in the Madison Sales Shop.

#### GLOBAL LEGAL INFORMATION NETWORK

The Global Legal Information Network (GLIN) has evolved from a manual indexing and abstracting operation in the 1950s to an online parliament-to-parliament cooperative exchange of laws and legal materials from some thirty-five countries. The updated GLIN has direct, remote input from eleven member countries abroad. Law Library staff members have abstracted and input the remaining twenty-four country files. This past year, 264,000 GLIN transactions were made, including searching, inputting, and updating its files. The total number of GLIN records reached nearly 80,000 during 1999.

A milestone was reached in March when a new GLIN file was put into production to allow GLIN members to enter legal writings into the database and to link those writings to summaries of laws that exist in the GLIN database. An upgraded version of the LEXICO thesaurus management system was put into production in early fall. The GLIN thesaurus committee met weekly to debate and adopt terms for inclusion in the GLIN thesaurus.

During September 14–16, 1999, the Inter-American Development Bank hosted the Sixth Annual GLIN Project Directors' meeting—the largest meeting to date—with representatives from fourteen nations, including current GLIN members (Argentina, Brazil, Guatemala, Korea, Kuwait, MERCOSUR [Southern Common Market], Mexico, Romania, Tunisia, the United Nations, and Uruguay) and five potential GLIN partners (Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Sweden, and Russia). Among the meeting's highlights were new expressions of support from the African Development Bank to finance certain African nations in GLIN and from the Organization of American States. The GLIN Model Station Award was given to the GLIN Romanian station.

GLIN's institutional partners—the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Center for Economic Analysis of Law (CEAL), and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency (NASA)—expressed the continuing interest of their institutions in financing start-up costs for countries that want to join GLIN and engaging in cooperative projects. With support from the World Bank, Guatemala became a full participant in the network. Besides IDB's agreeing to support Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil, CEAL provided funding for the GLIN Romanian team to input retrospective Romanian laws in the area of economic law.

With the advice of its GLIN partners at NASA and with funds from the Library's Madison Council, the Law Library purchased two satellite antennae that were installed at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland, to enhance communication among GLIN members. Other cooperative efforts between GLIN and NASA include the Environmental Legal Information System to link scientific data with legal information and the Digital Earth initiative to bring together representatives from numerous U.S. government agencies to share information on environmental concerns.

#### COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT

The Law Library circulated 201,535 items during 1999. Those figures included 379 readers who consulted 296 rare items.

The Law Library's sole recommending officer and selecting official for U.S. materials reviewed 690 serial titles, 3,950 monographic titles, 495 items received by the Exchange and Gift Division, and 255 foreign and international titles.

The reading room received and processed 5,277 "Records and Briefs" filed with the U.S. Supreme Court; 18,000 bills; 8,173 congressional documents; 692 *Congressional Record* (daily edition) items; 1,036 *Federal Register* issues; and 110 issues of the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*. In addition, the following special collections items were prepared for the Law Library's permanent collections: 899 volumes of *U.S. Supreme Court Records and Briefs*, 157 volumes of the *Federal Register*, and 5 volumes of the *Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents*.

During 1999, 173 items were cataloged, and 577 items received conservation treatment.

#### DIGITIZATION EFFORT

The Law Library's digitization effort—"A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates, 1774–1873"—was recognized during the 1999 annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in July. It received an award for the best nonprint publication of the year and was recognized by a number of academic and other research institutions.

During the year, the team produced 140,698 digital images representing 111 volumes of historical legislative collections covering the period of 1774 through 1829. The Web site recorded more than 200,000 transactions.

## SCHOLARS AND ADVISORY GROUPS

The Law Library was asked to play a central role in hosting a major, international symposium, "Democracy and the Rule of Law in a Changing World Order," to be held in March 2000 as part of the Library's Bicentennial celebration. As a cosponsor of the event, the New York University School of Law provided substantial funding for various aspects of the symposium and continued its coordination of the program with the Law Library. Support for the symposium also came from Madison Council member Anthony Welters, who together with his wife, Bea Welters, made a donation to the symposium under the "Gifts to the Nation" program.

The Friends of the Law Library supplemented the seed money it donated in fiscal 1998 with an additional contribution for the upcoming symposium. In April, the Friends held the Annual Wickersham Award dinner in the U.S. Supreme Court, where former Senator George Mitchell (D-Maine) was the honoree. The Friends also sponsored a well-attended Law Day celebration in May, for which many Law Library attorneys presented readings in the law.

The Law Library continued its scholars-in-residence program and worked closely with the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL), the International Association of Law Libraries, the American Bar Association (ABA) and its Standing Committee on the Law Library, and the Friends of the Law Library, among others. (See also appendix C: Advisory Bodies.)

During the annual AALL meeting in Washington in July, a special preconference workshop on searching and retrieving information in the GLIN database was held for more than fifty registrants.

With the support of the ABA Standing Committee on the Law Library of Congress, two representatives from the Law Library staffed the Law Library of Congress Digital Learning Center at the annual ABA meeting in Atlanta in August. The Digital Learning Center provides feedback from the bar on the Library's digitization efforts.